

Columbia City Neighborhood Parking Workgroup
Draft Final Recommendations
July 31, 2003

Since April 2002, the Columbia City Neighborhood Parking Workgroup has investigated ways to improve parking management in the neighborhood. The Parking Workgroup's selection of the following recommendations was based upon those months of investigation including the 2003 Columbia City Neighborhood Parking Survey. Feedback is now being sought from citizens, neighborhood and business groups. Please review and provide any comments you may have

- ***Recommendation 1: Create new on-street parking spaces with appropriate parking restrictions for businesses in the downtown area, for residents, and for library patrons.***

Convert parallel to angled parking on the south-side of Angeline St. east of Rainier (gain = 9 spaces) and the north side of Ferdinand east of Rainier (gain = approximately 8 spaces).

Look for lot-sharing opportunities between the Library, Post Office, Columbia Plaza, Orca School and other neighborhood parking lots.

Educate visitors to the library and business district about parking locations and access opportunities through directional signs, wayfinding tools, maps and educational brochures.

Educate Columbia City merchants about installing load-zones to provide adequate delivery spaces AND consolidating or eliminating under-used load-zones to create parking spaces.

Seek opportunities at Orca School to add parking on the streets adjacent to the school in no- parking areas or underutilized load zones. On 37th Ave S, between Edmunds and Ferdinand, move parking to the west side of the street (adjacent to Orca) to increase the number of parking spots (there are no curb cuts on the west side of the street).

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):

- ***Recommendation 2: Address the parking impact from community activities and events***

Events or activities with a cited or anticipated parking impact on surrounding residential areas include the Farmer's Market (Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. from May through October), Beatwalk (First Friday of each month, April through December), The Royal Esquire Club (at 5016 Rainier Ave. S) and the new Goods and Crafts Market and cinema at the Ark Lodge Building.

- Install signs to direct patrons to existing off-street parking opportunities. Signs could be the City's standard parking signs or bear a community logo and/or colors
- Educate visitors to area events about parking opportunities, parking courtesy, and alternative transportation means
- Offer incentives to event patrons to access events by means other than their car (coupons if they walk, bus, carpool or ride their bike)
- Increase marketing of the Farmer's Market parking validation program and expand to other merchants. Marketing elements could include directional signs, maps, brochures, transportation information on the rainiervalley.org website, window decals, and signs at participating lots

Improve enforcement of existing laws (no parking on parkway on S. Hudson and S. Ferdinand St. east of 39th Ave. S on weekend nights) and provide enforcement education materials to residents in areas where frequent abuses occur.

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):

▪ **Recommendation 3: Address impacts from the Edmunds Light Rail Station Opening**

Organize community members to monitor Sound Transit parking-mitigation commitments for the estimated opening of the Edmunds Light Rail Station in 2009. The proposed agreement between the City and Sound Transit calls for:

- Sound Transit to conduct inventories of the parking supply within ¼ mile of each station and citizen surveys to determine desire for the installation of time-restrictions in commercial areas and Residential Parking Zones in residential areas. That ¼ mile area will encompass the majority of the properties between MLK and S. 37th Ave. on S. Edmunds St., S. Ferdinand St. and S. Hudson St.
- Sound Transit to install the necessary signs to restrict parking prior to the opening of each station, depending upon community support

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):

▪ **Recommendation 4: Address impact from future developments**

The recommendations to improve the use of Columbia City's existing parking system focus on improving utilization of existing off-street parking facilities. However, these lots are slated to be redeveloped, bringing new residences and/or businesses to Columbia City that increase demand for parking while reducing the existing supply.

- Short-term, improve use of the lots as redevelopment may not occur for a while.
- Long-term, investigate opportunities to purchase community-owned or business-organization owned parking lots to replace existing facilities as they are developed. Community ownership gives businesses control over parking rates, validation programs, and hours of operation.

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):

▪ **Recommendation 5: Ensure there is adequate turnover within on-street parking spaces.**

Ensure that appropriate regulations (1-hour or 2-hour time limits) exist in the commercial area. Good locations to add time limit signs include:

- S. Ferdinand, adjacent to businesses east of Rainier Ave S.
- On S. Hudson St. within one block east and west of Rainier Ave. S.
- 37th Street between S. Edmonds St. and S. Ferdinand St.
- S. Edmonds Street adjacent to Orca School

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):

▪ **Recommendation 6: Promote TDM and trip reduction strategies.**

Provide information to employers and employees about alternative ways to access Columbia City without using cars. This will free existing spaces for short-term customer use. This information could be provided through a transportation-fair for Columbia City businesses.

Create a benefit package administered by the Columbia City Business Association (CCBA), Neighborhood Service Center, and/or other organization to provide transit, Home Free Guarantee and FlexCar benefits to employees who do not drive to work.

Develop a distribution plan for the Columbia City Map, and consider how the community may wish to update, revise, and reprint it when the existing supply runs out.

Install new bikes racks and disseminate information about safe bike routes.

Community Comments (please share your thoughts below):